Solid State Devices



Section 17 Intro to Transport - Drift, Mobility, Diffusion, Einstein Relationship

17.4 Physics of diffusion - Einstein Relationship

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Consider system to be in local equilibrium



So far Considered: Drift Term



Now the Diffusion term...

nanoHUB

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{q} \nabla \bullet \mathbf{J}_{N} - r_{N} + g_{N}$$
$$\mathbf{J}_{N} = qn\mu_{N}E + qD_{N}\nabla n$$
$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{q} \nabla \bullet \mathbf{J}_{P} - r_{P} + g_{P}$$
$$\mathbf{J}_{P} = qp\mu_{P}E - qD_{P}\nabla p$$
$$\nabla \bullet D = q\left(p - n + N_{D}^{+} - N_{A}^{-}\right)$$

Diffusion Flux ...

p(x)

- Assuming independent random motion
- Electrons move on average (at each x)
 - half to left,
 - half to right
- →NET movement of electrons to left
- i.e. against the gradient.
- Opposite sign for holes

the gradient.
In for holes.

$$J = q \left[-p(blue area) + p(red area) \right] v_{th}$$

$$J = q \left[-\left(\frac{p(0) + p(0) - \frac{dp}{dx}l}{2}\right) \times l + \left(\frac{p(0) + p(0) + \frac{dp}{dx}l}{2} \times l\right) \right] / \frac{l}{v_{th}}$$

 $J = qp v_{th}$

$$J = ql v \frac{dp}{dx}$$
 $D = lv$ $J = qD \frac{dp}{dx}$

Diffusion Flux ...

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This looks like a completely classical Where is the Quantum Mechanics?

Diffusion and Mobility must be related!

 $I = qD \cdot_{a}$

= lv

Quantum Mechanics is in the Diffusion coefficient and the Drift Velocity.

- \Rightarrow Determines the available states
- \Rightarrow Determines the capability to carry current

Scattering is built in here! Interactions of many, many, many electrons and he surrounding. Without scattering one could not explain the equal partitioning into 2 directions!

Einstein Relationship ...

$$J = qD\frac{dp}{dx} \quad D = \frac{lv}{m^*}$$

Diffusion and Mobility must be related!

... because scattering dominates both phenomena $l = v \tau$

$$\frac{D}{\mu} = \frac{lv}{\frac{q\tau}{m_0^*}} = \frac{(v\tau) \times v}{\frac{q\tau}{m_0^*}} = \frac{2(\frac{1}{2}m_0^*v^2)}{q} \qquad \frac{D}{\mu} = \frac{k_B T}{q}$$
$$E_{thermal}^{1D} = \frac{k_B T}{2}$$

An alternate derivation

RMS velocity of carriers is decided by the average mean free path and average scattering time

Carriers that arrive at x=0 do so by travelling one mean free path from right to left or vice versa.

Net current from left to right (at x=0) = charge on carrier*net flux of carriers from left to right

Figures and derivation from http://ecee.colorado.edu/~bart/book/book/chapter2/ch2_7.htm#fig2_7_8

Electron flux at x=0 from left to right

$$\phi_{n,left\to right} = \frac{1}{2} v_{th} n(x = -l)$$

The factor half appears because the other half at x=-1 travels towards the left

Electron flux at x=0 from right to left

$$\phi_{n,right \to left} = \frac{1}{2} v_{th} n(x=l)$$

Net Flux

$$\phi_n = \phi_{n,left \rightarrow right} - \phi_{n,right \rightarrow left} = \frac{1}{2} \upsilon_{th} [n(x=-l) - n(x=l)]$$

Derivation continued

$$\phi_n = \phi_{n,left \rightarrow right} - \phi_{n,right \rightarrow left} = \frac{1}{2} \upsilon_{th} [n(x=-l) - n(x=l)]$$

$$\phi_n = l \upsilon_{th} \frac{[n(x=-l) - n(x=l)]}{2l}$$

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If the mean free path is small enough, then we can write this as

$$\phi_n = -l\upsilon_{th} \frac{dn}{dx}$$

Consider system to be in local equilibrium

The negative sign arises because we take the gradient is usually measured for increasing values of x. The current density is then given by.

$$J_n = -q\phi_n = ql\upsilon_{th}\frac{dn}{dx}$$

For holes, we repeat the derivation and find...

n(l)

Lump together the second and third terms to form a 'diffusion constant'

 $D_p = l_{holes} v_{th,holes}$ $D_n = l_n v_{th,n}$

$$J_p = -qD_p \frac{dp}{dx}$$

For thermally distributed carriers...

$$E_{thermal}^{1D} = \frac{k_B T}{2}$$
$$E_{thermal}^{1D} = \frac{1}{2} m_0^* v^2$$

 $m_0^* v^2 = k_B T$

Equipartition theorem states that in equilibrium each carrier has thermal energy of kT/2 per degree of freedom.

valid for electrons and holes AT EQULIBRIUM

Our derivation is in one dimension→ one degree of freedom

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equipartition_theorem#Derivations

 $D_n = l_n v_{th,n}$

Alternate way to obtain the diffusion constants

$$D = lv_{th} = \tau v_{th}^2 = \frac{q\tau}{m^*} \frac{m^* v_{th}^2}{q} = \mu \frac{k_B T}{q}$$

$$D_n = l_n v_{th,n}$$

$$\frac{D}{\mu} = \frac{k_B T}{q}$$

$$\frac{D_n}{\mu_n} = \frac{D_p}{\mu_p} = \frac{k_B T}{q}$$

$$\frac{d\tau}{dt} = \frac{m^* v_{th}^2}{q}$$

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The equation shows how thermal quantities governing diffusion can be related to those governing drift (mobility depends on the effective mass which describes motion of carriers in the presence of a field and scatterers)

An alternate derivation of Einstein's relationship

No current in equilibrium $J_n = qn\mu_n \mathbf{E} + qD_n \frac{dn}{dx} = 0$ $\Rightarrow \frac{1}{n} \frac{dn}{dx} = -\frac{\mu_n E}{D_n}$ $n_2 = n_1 e^{-\int_0^L \frac{\mu_n \mathcal{E}}{D_n}} = n_2 e^{\frac{\mu_n V}{D_n}}$ $\frac{n_2}{d} = e^{\mu_n V/D_n}$ n_1 $k_B T$ $\ln\left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right) = \frac{\mu_n V}{D_n} = \frac{qV}{kT}$

